

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 5, 9, 14, and 18 as follows. All pending claims are reproduced below.

1           1. (Currently amended) A keypad, comprising:

2                   a plurality of keys; and

3                   a flexible carrier contacting the plurality of keys, the flexible carrier

4                           having openings therein between the plurality of keys;

5                   wherein the openings divide the flexible carrier into at least two serpen-  
6                           tine-shaped parts.

1           2. (Original) The keypad of claim 1, wherein the openings between the plu-  
2           rality of keys do not contact the plurality of keys.

1           3. (Original) The keypad of claim 1, wherein the plurality of keys are formed  
2           as a unitary part of the flexible carrier.

1           4. (Original) The keypad of claim 1, further including attachment means for  
2           attaching the plurality of keys to the flexible carrier.

1           5. (Currently amended) ~~The keypad of claim 1,~~ A keypad, comprising:

2                   a plurality of keys; and

3                   a flexible carrier contacting the plurality of keys, the flexible carrier

4                           having openings therein between the plurality of keys;

5 wherein at least some of the openings are cruciform-shaped.

1 6. (Cancelled).

1 7. (Cancelled).

1 8. (Cancelled).

1 9. (Currently amended) ~~The keypad of claim 1,~~ A keypad, comprising:

2 a plurality of keys; and

3 a flexible carrier contacting the plurality of keys, the flexible carrier

4 having openings therein between the plurality of keys;

5 wherein the openings divide the flexible carrier into multiple parts.

1 10. (Original) The keypad of claim 9, wherein the multiple parts are multiple  
2 columns.

1 11. (Original) The keypad of claim 9, wherein the multiple parts are multiple  
2 rows.

1 12. (Original) The keypad of claim 9, wherein the multiple parts have a zig-  
2 zag shaped edge.

1 13. (Cancelled).

1 14. (Currently amended) ~~The keypad of claim 1,~~ A keypad, comprising:

2 a plurality of keys; and

3                    a flexible carrier contacting the plurality of keys, the flexible carrier

4                    having openings therein between the plurality of keys;

5                    wherein the openings form at least one slot in the flexible carrier.

1                    15. (Original) The keypad of claim 1, the flexible carrier having cutouts in an  
2                    outer perimeter of the flexible carrier.

1                    16. (Original) The keypad of claim 15, wherein the cutouts in the outer pe-  
2                    rimeter occur in accordance with locations of the plurality of keys.

1                    17. (Original) The keypad of claim 1, wherein the openings in the flexible car-  
2                    rier occur in accordance with locations of the plurality of keys.

1                    18. (Currently amended) ~~The keypad of claim 1,~~ A keypad, comprising:

2                    a plurality of keys; and

3                    a flexible carrier contacting the plurality of keys, the flexible carrier

4                    having openings therein between the plurality of keys;

5                    wherein the openings serve to decouple the plurality of keys from each other.

1                    19. (Original) The keypad of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of  
2                    keys is tactilely differentiated from others of the keys.

1                    20. (Original) The keypad of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of  
2                    keys are domed.

1           21. (Original) The keypad of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of  
2 keys is bowl-shaped.

1           22. (Original) The keypad of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of  
2 keys has an inverted dimple thereon.

1           23. (Original) The keypad of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of  
2 keys has a peak thereon.

1           24. (Original) A keypad, comprising:  
2                   a plurality of keys, each key having an actuator; and  
3                   a flexible carrier surrounding the plurality of keys and having an open-  
4                   ing for each actuator and having additional openings between  
5                   the actuators, the additional openings serving to decouple the  
6                   plurality of keys.

1           25. (Original) The keypad of claim 24, wherein at least one of the actuators  
2 contacts a snap dome when the actuator is in a pressed condition.

1           26. (Original) The keypad of claim 24, wherein the openings between the plu-  
2 rality of keys do not contact the plurality of keys.

1           27. (Original) The keypad of claim 24, wherein at least some of the additional  
2 openings are cruciform-shaped.

1           28. (Original) The keypad of claim 24 wherein at least some of the additional  
2 openings are round.

1           29 (Original) The keypad of claim 24 wherein at least some of the additional  
2 openings are oval shaped.

1           30. (Original) The keypad of claim 24 wherein at least two of the additional  
2 openings have different shapes.

1           31. (Original) The keypad of claim 24 wherein the additional openings divide  
2 the flexible carrier into multiple parts.

1           32. (Original) The keypad of claim 31, wherein the multiple parts are multi-  
2 ple columns.

1           33. (Original) The keypad of claim 31, wherein the multiple parts are multi-  
2 ple rows.

1           34. (Original) The keypad of claim 31, wherein the multiple parts have a zig-  
2 zag shaped edge.

1           35. (Original) The keypad of claim 24, wherein the openings divide the flexi-  
2 ble carrier into at least two serpentine-shaped parts.

1           36. (Original) The keypad of claim 24, wherein the openings form at least one  
2 slot in the flexible carrier.

1           37. (Original) The keypad of claim 24, an edge of the flexible carrier having  
2 cutouts in an outer perimeter of the edge.

1           38. (Original) The keypad of claim 37, wherein the cutouts in the flexible pe-  
2 rimeter occur in accordance with locations of the plurality of keys.

1           39. (Original) The keypad of claim 24, wherein the openings in the flexible  
2 carrier occur in accordance with locations of the plurality of keys.

1           40. (Original) The keypad of claim 24, wherein the openings serve to de-  
2 couple the plurality of keys from each other.

1           41. (Original) The keypad of claim 24, wherein at least one of the plurality of  
2 keys is tactilely differentiated from others of the keys.

1           42. (Canceled)

1           43. (Canceled)

1           44. (Canceled)

1           45. (Canceled)

1           46. (Canceled)

1           47. (Canceled)

1           48. (Canceled)

49. (Canceled)